



Welcome to the US Army Corps of Engineers **Sacramento District**

The Facts: **Raising Folsom Dam 7 Feet To Reduce Sacramento's Flood Risk**

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By

Jim Taylor, Chief, Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District

The following quote appeared in the *Sacramento Bee* November 8, 2002, regarding the Army Corps of Engineers' proposal to raise Folsom Dam 7 feet to reduce the Sacramento area's flood threat.

"This is an unfortunate decision that reflects a Corps of Engineers interested in getting something constructed rather than providing Sacramento with a safe, reliable project," said Doolittle's press aide, Richard Robinson, of Flowers' decision to approve the project.

This statement is untrue.

Here are the facts:

- The Army Corps of Engineers can **safely raise** Folsom Dam to help reduce Sacramento's flood risk. That is the conclusion of **a team of independent analysts** who reviewed the Corps of Engineers' proposal to raise Folsom Dam. The team also recommended the Corps further analyze the interface between the dam's foundation and the bedrock and perform some additional stability work to the project.
- The Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Robert Flowers, issued a report to Congress on November 5, 2002, **recommending the raise along with some additional analysis and work**. "The team concluded that some modifications to the dam would be needed," said Lt. Gen. Flowers. "They found that the Corps adequately analyzed the raise for the level of detail required in a feasibility report, and they recommended some additional analysis in the advanced study phase of the project," he added.
- The Sacramento District's February 2002 feasibility report noted the need for further analysis of the interface between the foundation of the dam and the bedrock, and it recommended doing that analysis during post-authorization design work. The Corps is now conducting that analysis, and expects to have it **complete early next year**.

These improvements will increase the floodwater storage capacity of the lake by 95,000 acre-feet. The Corps will also build a temporary construction bridge to accommodate traffic during the work.

- This additional work may increase the cost of the project from an estimated \$219 million to around \$249 million and will **reduce the threat of flooding in the Sacramento area**. Sacramento currently has about 1 chance in 90 of flooding in any given year. Raising Folsom Dam, along with work under way, will reduce that risk to 1 chance in 213.
- **Ecosystem restoration** is also included in the project. It includes work along the lower American River at two sites totaling around 620 acres.
- For more information on our flood control efforts in the Sacramento area, please click on our web site for the [American River Watershed, Long-Term Study](#).
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James.H.Taylor@usace.army.mil